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VOL. 1 NO. 77

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1946.

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JEWISH GUNMEN KIDNAP BRITISH ARMY OFFICER FROM HOTEL

MAJOR FLOGGED IN RETALIATION FOR YOUTH'S BIRCHING TWO NCO'S EACH RECEIVE EIGHTEEN STROKES

Jerusalem, Dec. 29.
Jewish gunmen to-night kidnapped a British Army officer from the Metropole Hotel in Nathanya, midway between Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Earlier to-day the Irgun Zvai Leumi had announced in pamphlets distributed in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv that a British Army officer would be flogged in retaliation for the flogging of one of its "fighters."

The fighter was named in the pamphlets as Benjamin Yossef Kimchin, sentenced on December 11, to 18 strokes of the birch and 18 years' imprisonment for his part in the Jaffa bank robbery on September 13. Kimchin, who is 18 years of age, was told at the trial: "You are lucky your age prevents your being sentenced to death." He was charged with discharging a firearm and with unlawful possession of firearms, both offences punishable by death under the Palestine Emergency Defence Regulations.

A later report stated that a British brigade major was brought back to the hotel after he had been flogged publicly.

According to the Palestine Broadcasting Service the major received 20 strokes with a leather strap.

Later this evening it was officially stated that two other British soldiers—NCOs—were picked up by Irgun Zvai Leumi members and taken to the Zoo Gardens and each given 18 strokes. They were later released.—Reuters.

Tied To Rack
Associated Press adds that the major was whisked away from his wife in the lounge of Hotel Metropole in Nathanya, 40 miles north of Tel Aviv. The official announcement said he was blindfolded, tied to a rack and given a 20 stroke whipping.

Two sergeants taken from Armon Hotel on the seashore of Tel Aviv were tied to trees in the garden and given 18 strokes each in the presence of a small group of on-lookers held at bay by Tommy gunners.

The Tel Aviv kidnappers fled after the whippings, leaving the sergeants still tied to the trees.

The major, taken from the hotel in a motor car by five men armed with machine-guns, limped back an hour later clad only in underwear.

Police said that an anonymous telephone call to the Hebrew language newspaper said the Jewish Underground Irgun Zvai Leumi was responsible for the floggings.

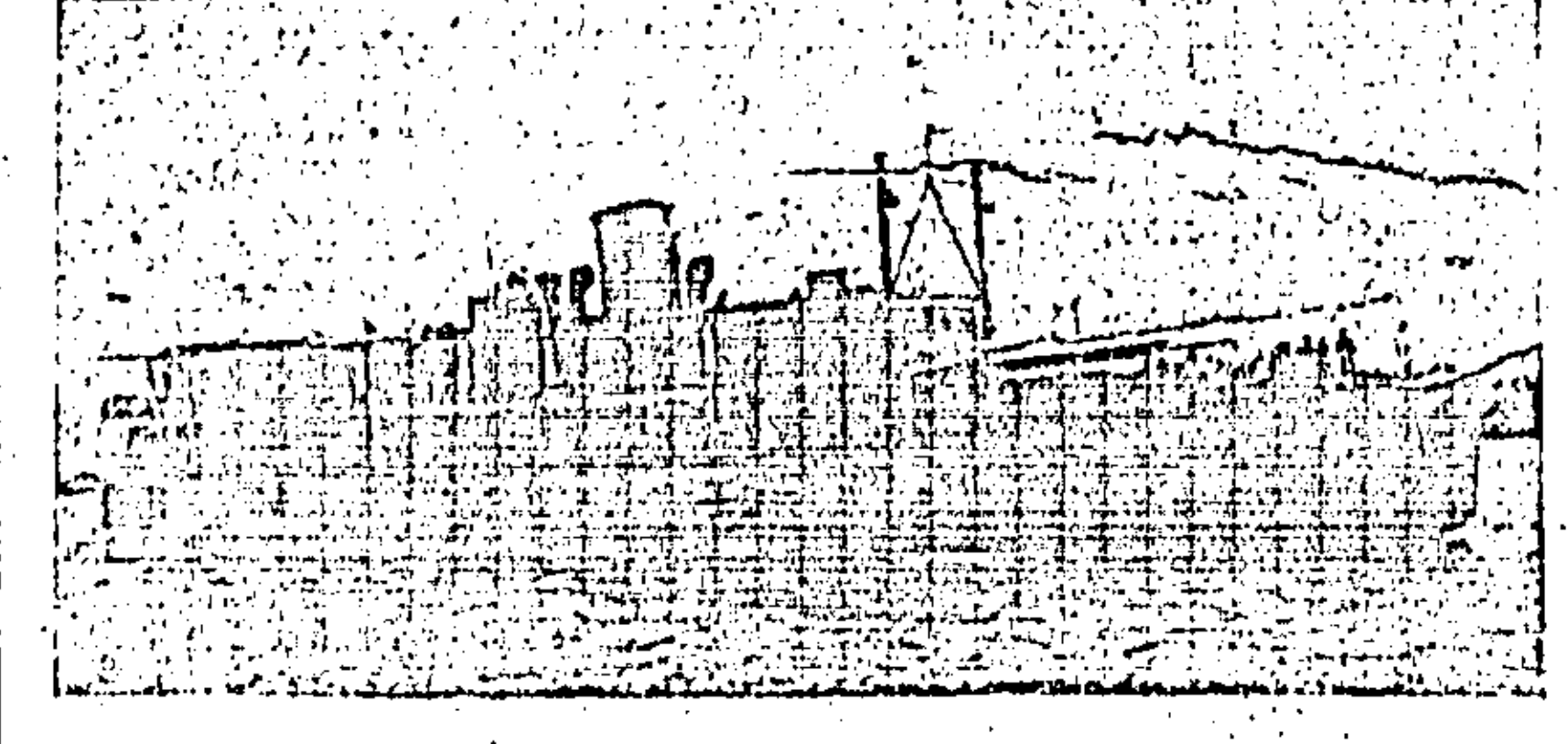
More Immigrants Sailed
Cyrena, Cyprus, Dec. 29.
Seven hundred and fifty Jewish illegal immigrants from the Carreles camps near Famagusta, sailed for Palestine to-day on the British steamer Ocean Vigour.—Reuters.

**French Police Break Up
Falangist Spy Network**

Paris, Dec. 29.
French police reported on Saturday the break-up of a Spanish Falangist spy network in southern France, which, they said, was compiling information on the numerous Spanish Republican refugees north of the border.

Five persons were arrested in three different spots along the coast, then released on parole. Two of these, a French woman from Saint Jean de Luz, and a Basque youth were rearrested on Saturday and taken to Toulouse for trial by military authorities, the police said.

The group, according to French authorities, operated under three Spanish officers with headquarters in Irun, Spanish frontier town. The three officers were reported to have been apprehended two days ago on French soil, and conducted back



FOUGHT GALLANTLY—HMS Liwo, 170-ft former Yangtze steamer belonging to the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., which sank in the Banks Strait after a gallant action against Japanese ships in February 1942. The late Lieut. T. Wilkinson, who was in command of the ship, has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross; while another officer, Sub-Lieut. R. G. Stanton, at present Chief Officer of the s.s. Wingsang, has been awarded the DSO.

DIXIE TIGHE'S FIGHT TO LIVE

Tokyo, Dec. 29.
Miss Dixie Tighe, New York Post correspondent, continued her fight to live as medical officers of the 40th General Hospital said she was "holding her own." They added, however, that there was little improvement.

The widely known European and Asiatic war correspondent was still unconscious after being stricken with cerebral hemorrhage.—United Press.

Burmese Mission Ready For London Visit

Rangoon, Dec. 29.
Preparations are well advanced for the departure early in January of the Burmese ministerial mission to London.

The delegations will include all parties in the interim government, with the exception of the Myochit, whose leader, former Premier U Saw, is in Calcutta for an operation. It is not known whether the Myochit Party will delegate some other leader.—Reuters.

US Navy's Part In Shanghai Rescue Work

Shanghai, Dec. 29.
Commending the US Navy ground control approach for the part they played in saving one aircraft on the night of December 25, Chief Pilot McDonnell of CNAAC announced to-day that there was no criticism against the US Navy GCA Kiangwan facilities in the recent triple crashes in this city.

Additional facts concerning the air crashes on Christmas night show that the fullest support of the US Navy was extended in the emergency. Brought to the alert by the Kiangwan tower to execute the sea rescue plan, the US Navy had two picket vessels and one tugboat searching the Whangpoo River within 15 minutes of the disasters. The search, under the direction of Lt-Comdr H. S. Noon of the Fleet Air Wing 1 with headquarters at Kiangwan, was conducted throughout the night until 3 a.m. on December 26.—United Press.

POLES WANT PEACE TREATY SIGNED IN WARSAW

London, Dec. 29.
Moscow Radio broadcast a report to-day that the Polish Government had decided to propose to the Council of Foreign Ministers that the peace treaty with Germany should be signed in Warsaw.

The proposal is based on the contention that since the German Government began on Polish territory, the signing of the treaty in Warsaw would have a "great symbolic, moral, and political significance for future generations," the report added.—Central News.

FLIGHT FROM HK TO DAUGHTER'S BEDSIDE IN UK

Birmingham, Dec. 29.
After flying 10,000 miles from Hongkong to see his daughter Rosemary, four months' old, who was dangerously ill with meningitis,

AMERICANS ACCUSE RUSSIA

Washington, Dec. 29.
The House of Representatives Committee on Post-War Economic Planning and Policy to-night urged the State Department to exercise the maximum pressure to dissuade Britain, Sweden, Switzerland and France from supplying Russia with implements of industrial development.

"That can only be deleterious to the interests of a secure and peaceful world under the present Russian policies."

The Committee, in its report to the House, unanimously accused Russia of "failure to keep the Potsdam and other agreements."

The report declared that the most serious of all violations of the Potsdam Agreement was the alleged rearming of Russia by German plants in the Russian-controlled zones, including the rocket-making and testing-grounds at Peenemunde, which were to have been scrapped.

"If this allegation is established as a fact by the joint inspection teams which have been agreed to but not permitted to operate in the Russian zones, this act would call for a re-nunciation of the entire Potsdam Agreement."

"The Western Allies would have every just ground for a demand on Russia to evacuate Germany completely," the report states.—Reuters.

Russia Proposes Disarmament Scheme

Lake Success, New York, Dec. 29.
Soviet Russia has proposed that a complete disarmament scheme, including details of international control of the atom-bomb and other deadly weapons, be drawn up within three months.

In a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, Dr. Trygve Lie, the Soviet representative to the Security Council, M. Andrei Gromyko, submitted this resolution for the Security Council's meeting on Tuesday.

The resolution calls for the establishment immediately of a special commission of the Council to proceed with the implementation of practical measures according to the General Assembly's recently approved disarmament plan and to prepare and within a period of "from one to two months" but not later than three months, proposals in accordance with that plan.

The new Soviet motion is interpreted in informed circles here as a further Russian attempt to seize the initiative in pushing forward early disarmament.—Reuters.

JAPANESE "WOLF OF CHANGSOU" FACES TRIAL

Shanghai, Dec. 29.
Harochi Yonamura, Japanese general manager of Changsou, known as the "Wolf of Changsou," was assigned for trial to-day before a military court for the alleged murder of 23 Chinese underground workers of Tai-chong and Changsou.

The accused, who ruled supreme in Changsou during the war, was reported to have struck terror into the hearts of the inhabitants in the district.

The "Lone Wolf" started in 1943 as a petty officer and was quickly promoted to the post of gendarme chief, owing to his rigid persecution of underground workers. Numerous cases of atrocities were named in which the accused handled human beings like beasts and many of his victims died from the atrocities.—United Press.

Second Engineer William Longwin arrived to learn that she had improved and was out of danger.

The cost of his air passage was paid by his employers, the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company.—Reuters.

French Reinforcements For Indo-China Report

Paris, Dec. 29.
French sailors and airmen of the aircraft carriers Beaurivier, Colossus and Dismude, as well as of the light cruisers Fantasque and Triomphant, who are now on leave, have been recalled to their base at Toulon, according to the newspaper Paris Combat.

The paper links this information with the report that a formation of French warships is on the eve of sailing to Indo-China.

The aircraft carrier Colossus was recently loaned by the Admiralty to the French Navy.—Reuters.

French sources in London to-night hinted that more and larger reinforcements, including probably part of the French Mediterranean Fleet, will be sent to Indo-China within the next few days, adds Central News.

Gen. Leclerc's Mission
Paris, Dec. 29.
The French Government, obviously worried by the situation in Indo-China, to-day learned of the arrival at Saigon of its third high-ranking investigator this week, Gen. Jacques Leclerc.

Leclerc flew into Saigon airport on Saturday afternoon several days after the arrival of the French Minister of the Colonies, Marius Moutet, and nearly one week after the return to Indo-China of the High Commissioner, Admiral Thierry d'Argenlieu.

A communique issued by Leclerc's Chief of Staff shortly after the dispatching of the French Minister stated that the war stepped from a twin-engine converted bomber, repeated a fact already known, that Leclerc was in Indo-China "on a temporary mission of inspection."

While Moutet continued to gather news of the tense situation in north Indo-China, various reports were received in Paris that Viet Nam forces in and around Nambu, in southern Indo-China, were being prepared for future attacks on French positions. The reports from Indo-China differ as to what instructions have been given these Viet Nam sympathizers: to now or to wait until after Moutet leaves for Paris.

Newspaper comments in Paris have been the bitterest since the Indo-Chinese fighting flared up 10 days ago. The majority of French political commentators and columnists have pointed out that unless France smashes the Viet Nam uprising the whole French empire is likely to go by the board.

Writing in the evening newspaper, France Soir, the famed political columnist, "Perlinex" said: "France must be prepared to throw sufficient military and economic weight behind her troops in Indo-China or lose everything."

Informed sources throughout Paris are agreed that France must increase the number of fighting men in the Indo-Chinese campaign if she wants (Continued on Page 4)

Albanian Reply On Corfu Mines Incident

London, Dec. 29.
The diplomatic correspondent of the Sunday Times to-day asserted that the contents of the recent Albanian reply to the British note concerning the Corfu Channel mines incident were known to be "entirely unsatisfactory."

The article said the reply evaded the British demands for reparations by evading responsibility, alleging the mines must have been laid by some third party.

The reply also charged the British Government with sending warships into the Channel with the "evil intent" to intimidate the Albanian people, the paper said.—United Press.

Russia And France Blamed For Germany's Lack Of Unity

Washington, Dec. 29.
The House of Representative Special Committee on postwar economic policy and planning to-day blamed Russia and France for failure to get economic unification of Germany, and said the Soviet Union retarded recovery in Eastern Europe.

The Committee also issued an eight-point recommendation for new Congressional investigations.

Its views came out in its progress report on the economic reconstruction of Europe. The Committee said the United States must take the lead "in a positive policy of reconstruction and cannot rest content with merely occupying its present zones and discharging relief."

The report said the Potsdam agreement could have been carried out if "real co-operation" from the Allies had been possible after the German occupation. But added that economic unification was impossible because of various reasons, including the "refusal of Russia and France" to participate.

Russia's political and economic policies "have retarded the recovery of all Eastern Europe, and threatened to run the economic line as well as the political frontier across Europe from Berlin to Trieste. It is also clear that there are many countries under the control of Russia in Eastern Europe whose freedom of trade with the rest of the world affects their own ability to fulfill the agreements of Yalta and Potsdam, and choose their own governments."

The Committee recommended Congressional inquiries on, firstly, review of the financial aspects of the U.S. occupation policy in order to substitute productive and self-supporting

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Directed by RAUL WALSH
Screen Play by Vincent Lawrence
and Horace McCovey
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DESERT SONG
IN TECHNICOLOR
DENNIS MORGAN MARVELL LEADER OF THE RIFLES
IRENE MANNING SWINGING SINGING OF VARIETY SONGS PARTY
WARNER HIT!!!

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"A THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS"
IN TECHNICOLOR!

DANGER—A PHANTOM AT LARGE IN ITALY

By
SYDNEY SMITH

THERE is a phantom at large in Italy to-day. Its shadow on the wall looks just a little like the outline of the ex-Duce. It is called Neo-Fascism. It is something still too vague to combat effectively, too subtle to hold, and too undeveloped to define clearly.

But it is gathering strength, force and individuality daily, in a way which those who read of the Allies' handling of the Nazis in Germany find difficult to believe.

There were 4,500,000 members of the Fascist Party before the war. Party losses until the Armistice of 1943 are not known. But from then until the collapse in North Italy the partisans reckon they accounted for 300,000 Fascists.

The new Republican amnesty of last June liberated 3,500 Fascists, including extremist ex-Ministers, and cancelled the trials of 20,000 collaborators.

Since then the High Court has annulled another 591 Fascists, has heard the appeals of 2,000 more who have been released on licence, and is due to hear 3,000 more appeals.

And 90 per cent of these are likely to be granted.

This will leave in all Italy's jails just 1,200 definitely sentenced Fascists—500 fewer than the ex-partisans who are still in prison for acts of violence against Fascists or Fascist property.

NOT all the freed Fascists belong to the phantom Neo-Fascism. The Italian political police and the British Intelligence Service believe that they have to deal with about 500,000 Neo-Fascists.

They are not well organised, but all of them manage to spread the gospel of new Fascism in their own way.

For example, four journalists, amnestied from a total of 83 years in prison for collaboration, are now writing for the Neo-Fascists' weeklies, which are springing up like mushrooms.

But they are writing anonymously and the police cannot prove their activity.

On a higher level, there are more than a dozen large industrialists and newspaper owners who were the backbone of Mussolini's Fascism for 26 years, and who have been amnestied.

They are now again driving their splendid limousines and controlling with their almost intact millions the same financial and industrial interests with which they backed the Duce.

THERE are thousands of State and municipal officials all over Italy, including judges, lawyers, magistrates and police officers, who were members of the Fascist Party, and are now back again in their old jobs, many of which were obtained through party influence.

Rupert and Ninky—2



Mrs. Bear sits down and looks at the big flower pattern on her old curtains. "You asked a very sensible question, Rupert," she says. "What can I do with these? Shall I cover a chair? Or shall I make you a suit? But the idea of a suit covered with sunflowers doesn't appeal to Rupert, and he thinks it is high time to change the subject. "My pal, Bill Badger, is not very well," he says hastily. "May I go across to his cottage and ask if he's better?"

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Who leads the Neo-Fascists? Intelligence reports are based on the theory that two chiefs are Carlo Scorza, middle-aged rugged Fascist fanatic, a stubborn and wily southerner from Calabria, and Augusto Turati, a former editor of a Milan Fascist newspaper, equally wily and fanatical, but more subtle, intellectual and far more dangerous.

Scorza was Fascist Party Secretary until the armistice. After the collapse in the north he hid in a monastery near Milan. Police swooped on his hide-out there, and later on others at Padua, Vicenza and Varese.

Each time his tipsters gave him warning a few hours before the police arrived.

TURATI was secretary of the Fascist Party from 1922 until 1931. He visits Rome occasionally, where his close friends receive telephone calls and letters from him.

But the police have never been within hours of his trail.

These two men are believed to be behind the most dangerous organisation, based in North Italy and calling itself the Fascist Democratic Party.

Its home policy is simply National Socialism. Its foreign policy is anti-Allied and based on hopes on an eventual Rome-Berlin-Moscow axis.

The party has a military organisation known as S.A.M., which stands for "Mussolini Action Squad."

S.A.M. is divided into small units, which have no contact with each other. Only the leader of each group knows the identity of his superior officer.

Two names suggested as organisers of S.A.M. are Galbini, chief of general staff of the Fascist Militia and once member of the Fascist Grand Council, and Pizzardi, head of the Fascist Federation of Rome during the German occupation, both much-wanted men.

Recently, agents contacted the Allied authorities in a futile attempt to pave the way for a safe return for Turati to open political life and the formation of a party which would be prepared to dispense with the use of the word "Fascist."

The Allied reply was brief and pointed. Turati stays underground.

POCKET CARTOON



NO ENTRY

HIRO, the first Japanese town to be fully occupied by British troops, has several large cinemas. But our troops could not enter them, they were for Japanese only.

True, there was a makeshift cinema in the camp, but for a soldier the joy of going to the pictures is in getting out of barracks.

At one table North responded to the opening spade bid with a highly speculative two no trump, and South leaped directly to six spades. Here West decided to lead a trump. South won in his own hand, cashed another high trump (while East discarded the diamond ace, to show his strength in that suit), then took the heart finesse. The queen holding he cashed the heart ace, ruffed a heart went to dummy's spade jack and ruffed another heart, establishing the fifth card of the suit and insuring the contract. South cashed the club ace, led to the club queen, discarded the lone diamond on the set-up heart, and then tried to win two more club tricks. East, however, had South's fourth club covered, and the extra trick could not be made.

South's play was good, in so far as taking the heart finesse and ruffing out the suit were concerned, but he made one rather silly mistake. Before he went to the club queen, to cash the established heart, why not cash the last trump? What good was it in the South hand? Obviously, no good! If he had laid down that card before discarding on the heart, East would have been squeezed—he would have had to give up either his last diamond, establishing the queen, or his club stopper.

The bidding varied at the eight tables, but most of the North-South pairs arrived at six spades. As it happened, no West hit upon a diamond opening, and at seven of the eight tables South took every trick.

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THEN, the Liberals have been planning to merge with the two-year-old Common Man Party, which is Catholic, anti-Monarchist, anti-Left and anti-Allied.

Its newspapers, which preach the nearest gospel to the Fascists' National Socialism, have some of Italy's top circulations.

Its followers are now learning Party songs and have recently been beaten up by ex-partisans for slugging them in an old and too familiar fashion. Its enemies call it a rallying point for the new Fascists.

The soil is as ripe to-day in Italy for some new form of Fascism as it was for Mussolini's Fascism in 1919.

Hundreds of thousands of ex-Fascists nod agreement over the Fascist periodicals, their comparisons of Mussolini's Italy and the chaos and dismay of to-day.

And they see in the phantom of to-day the hope for a reality of tomorrow.

Our troops are not happy in Japan

by
JOHN DEANE POTTER

BEFORE I left Japan I promised our occupation troops, from brigadiers to privates, that I would try to do something for them.

I want to underline that to-day there are 40,000 British troops stationed there.

From the beginning, our occupation has been wrong down to nearly every detail. Few staff officers responsible for organising the occupation seemed to realise that they were dealing with a conquering force landing in a defeated country in peacetime.

Their attitude was as if they were assaulting a beach in Normandy. Instead of planning for service, troops, welfare and amenities officers and captains to go ashore first and prepare the way, they got the infantry to go first, as if in the teeth of machine-gun fire.

All that was needed to make the farce complete was a preliminary softening-up barrage.

Amenities and comforts landed later. Many of those scheduled have not landed yet.

The men were billeted in cold grubby Japanese wooden barracks, which go up like tinder if anyone drops a match.

They had insufficient blankets and warm clothes. Many had no beds, and slept on stretchers which were hurriedly "scrunged" from hospitals. These they suspended between two sugar boxes.

HIRO, the first Japanese town to be fully occupied by British troops, has several large cinemas. But our troops could not enter them, they were for Japanese only.

True, there was a makeshift cinema in the camp, but for a soldier the joy of going to the pictures is in getting out of barracks.

It was not until I suggested to a brigadier that one of the Jap cinemas should be requisitioned for the troops that anything was done.

I know there are plans for cinemas, leave hotels, and English-style pubs. But they are coming along far too slowly.

Against this the G.I.s in Japan have everything to the point of pampering. The Americans, with their usual sweeping efficiency, have the whole country organised for the well-being of their own men.

Every hotel worth taking over has been requisitioned, and all the big cinemas are reserved for American troops and show preview Hollywood films. At every street corner you meet canteens and recreation centres.

American wives have been living with their husbands in Japan for four months. Where there were no houses, hundreds of comfortable, even palatial, army huts were built, complete with refrigerators and steam-heating.

English women would not demand the luxuries that Americans regard as their right. They would be willing to endure a much lower standard of comfort if they could only join their husbands. But it will be months before the first British wife leaves for Japan.

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It is not only other ranks who suffer. Regular officers, prepared to be stationed in remote Eastern garrisons, are dismayed.

They did not expect to see their wives in wartime. But peace is more than a year old, and when they see that it may be years before their families come out, their bitter complaints mingle with the unhappy chorus from the men.

And the day I left Japan several men showed me their cigarette ration—20 for a week. Mail sometimes takes four months, and there is nowhere to go in the evening.

The British soldier needs little to make him happy, and the defeated Japanese pay for their upkeep as part of reparations. Are we to save the Japanese money and labour at the expense of our own men's happiness?

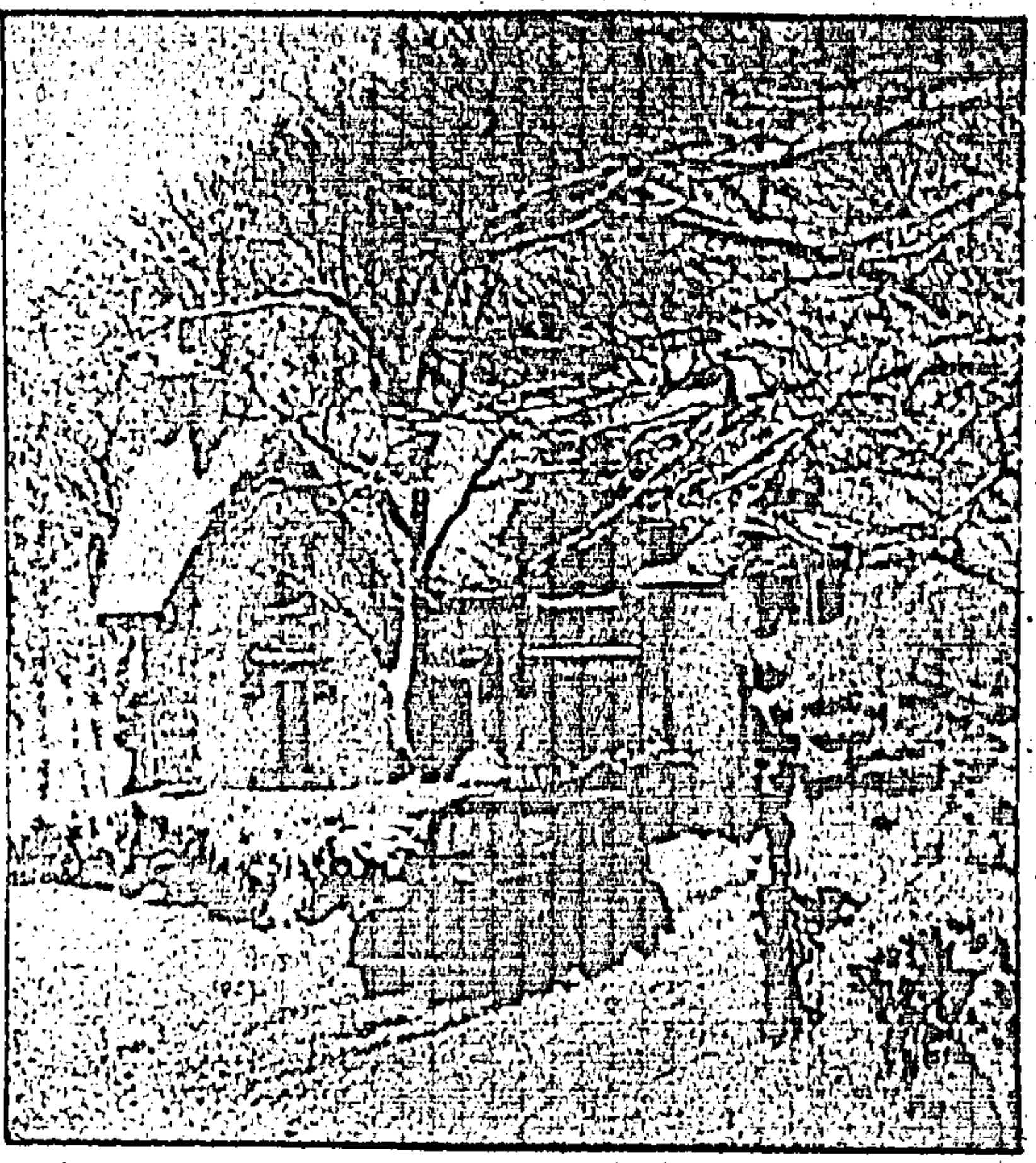
THE RESULT

If we do, there is a possibility—rapidly becoming a probability—which makes everyone who has been to Japan shudder.

Our men do not want to go out with Japanese women, but what is a man to do with little mail and no amusements?

After several months, hundreds of British soldiers were walking through the streets with littering Jap girls on their arms.

If something is not done quickly—even now it may be too late—thousands more will find this form of escape from the loneliness and boredom of being in a country which is probably more foreign to them than any in the world.



HEAVY SNOW at Whaley Bridge, Cheshire, recently produced this real Christmas card effect.

Our troops are not happy in Japan

by
JOHN DEANE POTTER

BEFORE I left Japan I promised our occupation troops, from brigadiers to privates, that I would try to do something for them.

I want to underline that to-day there are 40,000 British troops stationed there.

From the beginning, our occupation has been wrong down to nearly every detail. Few staff officers responsible for organising the occupation seemed to realise that they were dealing with a conquering force landing in a defeated country in peacetime.

Their attitude was as if they were assaulting a beach in Normandy. Instead of planning for service, troops, welfare and amenities officers and captains to go ashore first and prepare the way, they got the infantry to go first, as if in the teeth of machine-gun fire.

All that was needed to make the farce complete was a preliminary softening-up barrage.

Amenities and comforts landed later. Many of those scheduled have not landed yet.

The men were billeted in cold grubby Japanese wooden barracks, which go up like tinder if anyone drops a match.

They had insufficient blankets and warm clothes. Many had no beds, and slept on stretchers which were hurriedly "scrunged" from hospitals. These they suspended between two sugar boxes.

HIRO, the first Japanese town to be fully occupied by British troops, has several large cinemas. But our troops could not enter them, they were for Japanese only.

True, there was a makeshift cinema in the camp, but for a soldier the joy of going to the pictures is in getting out of barracks.

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Indonesian Demand For Goods Gives Birth To Large-Scale Smuggling

Cut off from normal international trade channels, the young republic of Indonesia has encouraged smuggling. The seas between Sumatra and Singapore are dotted with vessels ranging from junks to privately owned LSTs laden with rubber, pepper, coffee, palm oil, quinine and other riches. Most of these illegally exported cargoes ultimately are reshipped to the United Kingdom or America, says Associated Press.

"I'm the biggest smuggler in South-east Asia," said Dr. A. Gani, the Republic's dynamic, bantam-sized Minister of Economic Affairs. "There's no alternative. Smuggling has to form the nucleus of any young nation's trade."

The Indonesians explain that their export policy was born of necessity. Since last March, the Republic has controlled, in addition to Java, all of Sumatra except the slender Allied (now Dutch) bridgeheads at Palembang, Medan and Padang. Here the new government found itself with an area of 162,000 square miles. It had 8,500,000 people to administer—and it controlled the source of most of the Netherlands East Indies oil, rubber and other valuable products.

To bring textiles to clothe its people and consumers' goods to meet their most pressing needs, the Republic needed contact with international trade channels.

Vessels Intercepted

That contact was prohibited by the Dutch, whose Navy and Department of Economic Affairs cutters intercepted all vessels with cargoes not covered by Dutch export licences. The Dutch asserted that most of the export products were coming from privately-owned estates, European proprietors of which had been interned by the Japanese and prevented from returning to their holdings by the revolution.

In Java, where the Republic was first proclaimed, no such problems arose. The only major export was native-grown rice. The Government of India, after getting Dutch approval, had contracted with the Republic to purchase rice surpluses in exchange for textiles. By December 1, India had received 40,000 tons of paddy in return for 5,200,000 yards of textiles, 10,000 bicycle tyres and similar products.

But in Sumatra an economic stalemate developed until Gani hit on his smuggling plan.

He overcame the private ownership question by ordering Republican officials to keep accounts for each estate and promising full repayment

to the owners for products exported in their absence.

Big Profits Promised

He promised Chinese shipowners in Singapore big profits but flatly warned them that to take away full cargoes from Republican ports they must bring in full cargoes of consumer goods.

He imposed export duties of about 30 percent and import taxes ranging from about 5 percent on food up to 25 percent on such luxury items as cigarettes.

Meanwhile, as prospects of a political settlement grew nearer, the Dutch began unofficially to condone the trade. Their vessels confined themselves to a dingy sure that no arms were being smuggled in, and no heavy equipment from European holdings was going out.

Statistics show how great the smuggling trade has grown. Exports from the Palembang residency in October were 6,785 tons, mostly rubber, valued at \$5,441,715 Japanese guilders.

Imports were valued at 245,814,074 guilders—an abnormally high figure. In the first three weeks of November exports rose to 83,000,000 Japanese guilders while imports sharply increased.

From this same residency, 43,700 tons of goods were smuggled out in the first nine months of 1946. At Pekan Nerus, which is just across the Malacca Straits from Singapore, the government revenue from imports and exports in one month was 40,000,000 Japanese guilders.

Foreign Exchange

The smugglers have proven useful during the Republic's first months but their pay day is about over. The first normal commercial vessel recently cleared from Palembang carrying 200 tons of cargo, all that happened to be available. For that the Republic will receive foreign exchange, something which it has not received in the past.

The smugglers' high-priced Australian foods, Siamese rice and American cigarettes will now have to compete with imports purchased at wholesale prices with the new foreign credits of Straits and Hong-kong dollars.

News Sheets By Home Radio Not Far Distant

The day when people can receive at home facsimile news broadcasts—four pages of printed copy on home receivers every 15 minutes—is not far distant, the American National Association of Broadcasters was told recently.

Capt. W. G. H. Finch, manufacturer of facsimile receivers and transmitting equipment, said: "The facsimile broadcasting of newspapers noon will take its place along side that of radio broadcasting."

Many frequency modulation broadcasters in leading American cities, some of them owned by newspapers, are awaiting equipment to start experimental broadcasting. He said. Home receivers now built turn out a page of news, pictures, features and stock exchange reports, at a speed of 28 square inches a minute, or a page every 15 minutes, according to United Press.

Advertising, as well as news matter will be broadcast, but there is a wide field for experimentation in programmes and format, Finch said.

Famous Dramatist's Bequests

Edward Knoblock, who collaborated with Arnold Bennett in the writing of the successful play "Miles from London," and was himself the author of the famous drama "Kismet," first produced in 1914, and shown as a film here last week, left an interesting will.

He desired that his body should be cremated, and the ashes thrown off Westminster Bridge into the Thames at night. An oil painting, being an early portrait of Shakespeare, was bequeathed to the National Gallery; a miniature of Garrick with a lock of his hair to the Beefsteak Club; and a collection of theatre programmes to the Harvard Library, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. There was also a bequest of money for the founding of a "Kismet" cot in the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London.

SOVIET SCIENTISTS

Three hundred Soviet scientists are now working at the new research centre established about five miles from Novo Sakhalinsk, in the south of the island of Sakhalin, in the Gulf of Tatar, to investigate the mineral resources of the island.—Reuter.

WELSH NEWSLETTER

By J. C. Griffith Jones

With the old country enveloped in winter mists and buffeted by gales, the summer of 1947 seems a far-off dream. But the Welsh winters are made a little more bearable by thoughts of August Bank Holiday and sunshine (perhaps, we shall have a few rays next summer!). Anyway, preparations are going on for next year's festival in the sun, agricultural shows including the "national" music and drama festivals, and, of course, the National Eisteddfod.

Stormy weather or otherwise, the Welsh folk of Colwyn Bay are all smiles again. The fear that after nearly two years of arduous preparations their National Eisteddfod to be held next August might prove a fiasco has been routed. They have been given the licence they applied for months ago to build the £5,000 pavilion for the annual festival of the Welsh people. More important still, the Ministry of Works has undertaken to release the necessary amount of timber for constructing this temporary home for the Eisteddfod.

Timber is still scarce, and with the clamant demand for more and more of it for building new houses and factories, it may be scarce still in the next few years. So the Eisteddfod pavilion and platform have to be built out of borrowed "planks." Colwyn Bay is out of the wood, but Eisteddfod, where the festival will be held in 1948, is already worrying about its "national" timber!

Without this outside pavilion, of course, the big zestful crowds that make the festival a truly national affair could not be accommodated. There would be no titanic contests, no full-coloured pageantry of the bards. The festival would fade away into a local "penny reading" or chapel "do." But all is set fair now for Colwyn Bay.

Drama Movement

One of the smallest towns in South Wales believes it has the most vigorous drama movement in the whole Principality. This is the mining community of Resolven, in the Vale of Neath—population, not much more than 4,000. For over 20 years its amateur dramatic society has flourished, even managed to keep going during the bleak war years. It has won nation-wide renown. Its performances both in English and Welsh have been given in almost every county in Wales—over 350 stage appearances in all now, at village institutes, town halls, chapels, and make-do theatres of all kinds. They have even entertained their fellow-countrymen as far distant as London.

Twice they have captured premier awards at the National Eisteddfod, once in the one act competition, and last year at Mountain Ash they triumphed in the chief Welsh drama contest. Since then they have travelled thousands of miles to perform the winning comedy "Tywydd Mawr" (Stormy Weather) in aid of

Sir Angus Gillan India-Bound

Singapore, Dec. 28. Sir Angus Gillan, head of the Empire Division of the British Council, leaves for India to-morrow where he has been asked to assist in getting the British delegates to the Science Congress, opening in New Delhi in January.

Sir Angus extensively toured the Malayan Union, Siam, Indo-China and China last year, furthering the Council's objects—publishing British education, culture and art and receiving reciprocal knowledge of other peoples.—Reuter.

Dr Sillow's Appointment

London, Dec. 28. Dr R. A. Sillow, until recently scientific officer of the Agricultural Research Council at the plant breeding institute in Cambridge, has been appointed Director of the British Council in China, in succession to Dr Joseph Needham, who is now with the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization.

Dr Sillow has done research on Asiatic cottons in collaboration with the Chinese Agricultural Research Bureau at Nanking.—Reuter.

chapel and community welfare funds all over Wales.

The company is "home made" all right, representative of every walk of life in the valley. Its players consist of an insurance man, a railway guard, colliery fitter, bus conductor, two school teachers, a doctor's wife and a housekeeper. The stage director is a Council electrician, the producer a retired schoolmaster, and the organizer a local ironmonger. Soon this mining town will have its own little theatre. A plot of ground has been bought out of the drama society profits. And the whole community is backing the venture.

Regional Insurance Chief

One of the most interesting public appointments in Wales recently was that of the new regional chief in the Ministry of National Insurance. This plum has come the way of a former pit boy, Edgar Evans, a native of the Carmarthenshire village of Carway, near Kidwelly. Since 1943 he has been deputy controller of the Ministry of Labour in Wales. The son of a miner who died of silicosis, and one of eleven children, he started work in a local colliery at 14.

When 27, he won a scholarship at the Miners' College, London, then won his way to Cambridge University where he graduated B. A. with honours. His first civil service job was to take charge of the National Savings movement in North Wales. Mr Evans is 48 and his headquarters will be at Cardiff.

Wilfred Wooller, Cardiff and Welsh International Rugby star, has decided to retire from the game. His last run was in a match at his old school in Colwyn Bay. But he will play next summer, sharing the captaincy with J. C. Clay, who wants to "fade out" gradually.

G. A. Parkinson, first-class batsman and fielder, of Swansea, has been released from Army service, and is expected to shine in the Welsh county side next year.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Can't you take a joke, Mr. Jones? I didn't mean it when I said I'd bet you had plenty of pork chops in the icebox!"

ORIENTAL

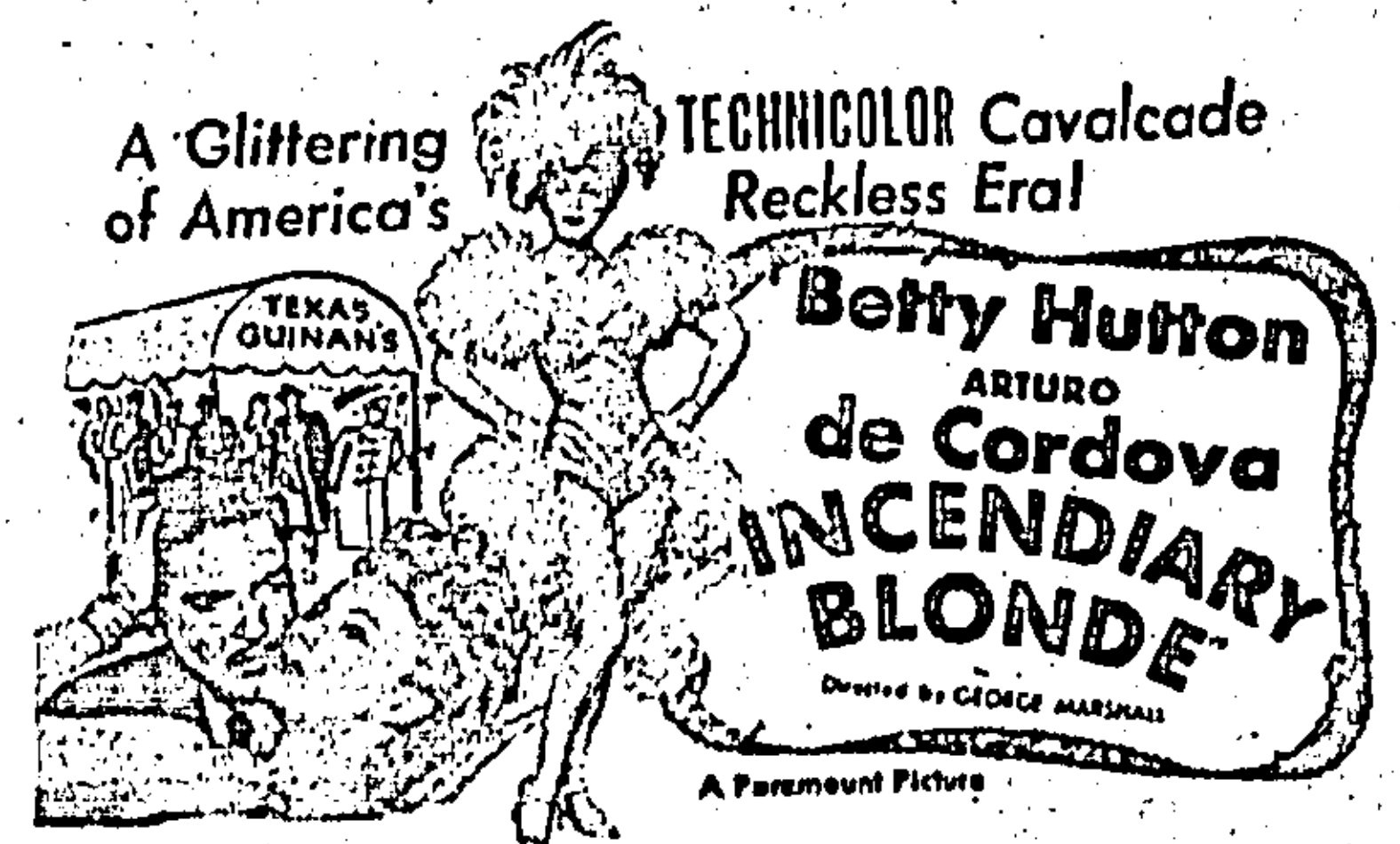
SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30-5.15-7.15-9.15 P.M.
BIGGEST STAR PARTY IN HOLLYWOOD HISTORY!



SHOWING TO-DAY **KINGS** AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.



NEXT CHANGE



TO-DAY & TO-MORROW **QUEEN'S** AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.



COMMENCING WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1, 1947
TYRONE POWER in
"THE BLACK SWAN"
In Technicolor
with Maureen O'HARA • George SANDERS

ALHAMBRA TO-DAY & TO-MORROW AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



NEXT CHANGE! **"THE SKY'S THE LIMIT"**

RIZAL DAY IN MANILA

LIVED IN AIR BUBBLE

Manila, Dec. 29. The mid-centennial observance of Rizal Day, December 30, commemorating the martyrdom of the Filipino hero, will be ushered in to-night by a nation-wide radio broadcast over all stations at which Vice President Quirino will be the guest of honour. Dona Trinidad Lital, only living sister of the national hero, will talk to the nation at that time.—United Press.

Moscow, Dec. 28. Two workers, Boev and Dimchev, lived 30 hours in an air bubble formed in one of the tubes when a charge exploded in a heavy storm near Komsomolsk on the Amur River. Diver Andrei Fomenko finally reached the men, helped them with diving helmets and brought them to the surface.—United Press.

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